



2023 **SMART** Program Guidelines

Support for Minority Advancement in Research Training

The Office of the Vice President for Research strongly encourages under-represented minority (URM) undergraduate students to pursue research opportunities at UofSC during the summer and to learn more about graduate programs at UofSC. USC faculty members (all campuses, all disciplines) who mentor URM undergraduate student research projects in person (students from all UofSC campuses, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, or other institutions) during the summer will receive a supplement of \$1000 per student mentored, for up to two students this summer. Please note that only one faculty member may receive support per eligible student, and faculty members who are already receiving compensation for mentoring URM undergraduate researchers are not eligible for SMART support.

For the SMART program, under-represented minority students include those who are

- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino
- American Indian
- Alaska Native
- Native Hawaiian
- Other Pacific Islander (includes Guam, Samoa or other Pacific Islands in Polynesia, Micronesia or Melanesia)

Please note that enrollment at an HBCU does not guarantee a student's eligibility for the SMART Program.

Allowable use of SMART funds

- summer salary for the research mentor (faculty, postdocs, graduate students)
- salary for the URM undergraduate student (provided that the undergraduate URM student is a U.S. citizen or green card holder)
- research costs

Unallowable use of SMART funds

- SMART funds may not be used for any type of food for any purpose.
- SMART funds may not be used to support a student research project that is for academic credit (class, course, or independent study).

SMART Account Management

- The funds will be transferred into an N account, which will be set up by the Controller's Office.
- The funds cannot be transferred from the N account to another fund account (the funds are E funds and cannot be transferred to another type of account).
- The project period for use of the funds is one year, from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.
- Extensions will not be allowed.

Terms of the Support

Responsibilities of the Faculty Mentor

- Provide a research project for the student which will last a minimum of 8 weeks during the summer of 2023
- Mentor the student throughout the project
- Provide the resources necessary for the student to complete the project
- If the mentor is not available for a short period (such as travel), arrange for a temporary mentor (such as a postdoctoral scholar, graduate student or other faculty) to oversee the student research project
- If schedule allows, serve as a faculty panelist for one seminar as part of the *Research: Next Steps to Success* seminar series for undergraduate summer research students

Responsibilities of the Undergraduate Student

- Complete all required health and safety training classes
- Attend the research training on a regular basis
- Complete a research project during the summer
- If possible, attend *Research: Next Steps to Success* workshop and seminar series
- Present the results of the research project as a virtual poster presentation at the USC Summer Research Symposium for undergraduates on Thursday, July 27 (or other research symposium as appropriate)

To be considered by the VPR Office for this support, faculty must complete the following [online application form](#). **The deadline for receipt of 2023 SMART applications is noon on Friday, June 16, 2023.**

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Lauren Clark, Director of the Office of Undergraduate Research, by email (lauren.clark@sc.edu) or by phone (777-4649).